

**Draft Minutes of the 166th Annual General Meeting
of St John's in the City Presbyterian Church
held in the St John's Centre on Sunday 20 October 2019 at 12 midday.**

Present

Rev Allister Lane (Moderator), Rev Stuart Simpson, Richard Read (Session Clerk), Mary Gibbs (Minutes), Malcolm and Lesley Shaw, Pamela Cohen, Elizabeth Gibbs, Dee & Kirk McDowall, Angela and Philip Garrity, Eldred Gilbert, Allie Crombie, Bastian, Gordon and Amanda Fitch, Carolyn and Ron Goudswaard, Evan Dumbleton, Jinny and John Irvine, Robyn and Roger Gyles, Margaret and John Hunt, Betty Robertson, Bhanu Pandra, Sophie and Jason Fyfe, Monika Demuth-Barber, Rebecca Dudley, Dayle and Rob Anderson, Nicki Read, Janice McCallum, Janet Thomson, Tae Soon Lee and Jeong-Tae Jang, Judi Ferguson and Glen Labrum, Antonia Milkop, Karin Duncan, Enrino Pasullean, Katherine and Gavin Sutherland, Gordon Sutherland, Elizabeth McKenzie, David Wood, Delcye and Ross Chesney, Vicki Payne, Ivan Wong, Jessica Davis, Brigitte Hicks-Willer, Eleanor Carter, Margaret Wallace, Claire Dawe, Elaine Pearce, Grace Jarvie, David Jackson, Naomi Lane, Linda Van Milligan, Cecil Duff

1 Constitution

Rev Allister Lane began by welcoming us to this the 166th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

AGM's are about looking to the future and the challenges they present. Also looking at the year past and the major highlights. This year of course it was the Earthquake Seismic Strengthening of the Church and the associated fundraising. We also need to decide who we are and where we want to be. Apart from the ongoing fundraising, faith formation was a priority. To this end a number of significant changes were made to our ways of working with Youth and St J's kids, as well as intergenerational faith development.

The 3 goals of Worship, Giving and Mission continue to underpin the way forward.

Rev Allister Lane constituted the meeting with prayer.

2 Apologies

Margaret Gilkison, Catherine Gibbs, Neil Dodgson, Sandra Waldrom, David Ensor, Ross Davis, Glynis Durante, Bruce Cunningham, Gail Higgs-West, David Galt, Louise and Paul Ramsay, Rev Wayne and Mrs Adrienne Matheson, Eric Sidoti, Ashley Milkop, Anna Davis, Margaret Garrett, Vicki Wood, Tony Hastings, Theresa and Lawrence Webster, Cynthia Krogh, Lala Simpson, Daphne Chua, David Tay, Jo-Anne Tay

It was moved that these apologies be accepted.

R Read/C Goudswaard

AGREED

3 Quiz – Fun facts from the Annual Report

Rev Stuart Simpson was the MC of the closed Annual Report Quiz. Two teams had 8 out of 10 questions correct.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These minutes had been circulated.

There were the following corrections:

Item 2: Correction to Glynis not Glenys.

Item 9: Correction to Rev Allister Lane.

Item 14: Correction to Rev Dr J and Mrs J Veitch

Correction to Rev Dr J and Mrs J Roxborough

It was moved with the above corrections that the minutes of the 165th AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record.

*R Read/Roger Gyles
AGREED*

5 Matters Arising

Nil

6 Presentation of the Annual Report

Richard Read, Session Clerk, began by thanking the Social Committee for organizing lunch today. Also, thanked was the Communication Committee, plus apologies for the non-inclusion of the Music Report in the Annual Report. This will be posted on the website.

Richard highlighted the following area of activities:

- Pathway of Faith project. Looking at how we can continue to Worship, Grow, Live and Share within a multi-generational community.
- The ongoing Seismic Strengthening of the Church with its disruption to our community but building on the faith of our forefathers. Throughout all the disruption the Ministry team and the Administration Team have continued to work on our behalf.

It was moved that the 166th Annual Report of St John's in the City be accepted.

*R Read/I Garrett
AGREED*

7 Presentation of Financial Reports, Seismic Strengthening Fundraising and Proposed Budget

Ross Chesney, Treasurer, spoke about these as follows:

a) Financial Reports

- The financial performance for the year resulted in an operating surplus of \$31,126 and deficit after transfers to reserves of \$72,256. This is significantly less than the 2017/18 deficit of \$308,525. Costs have been kept down wherever possible. Property is a big ongoing cost. Currently maintenance is being done on a 'fix only' requirement and long term maintenance such as upgrading the St John's Centre, (now 25 years old) has been deferred.

It was moved that the Financial Statements be accepted.

*R Chesney/J Irvine
AGREED*

b) Earthquake Strengthening Fundraising Update

Fundraising to 30 September 2019 amounts to \$3,060,935, which represents 73% of the target of \$4,200,000. This includes congregational giving, legacies, fundraising and external money received including Lottery Environment and Heritage grant, Wellington City Council grant and contributions from former members.

However, total costs have now risen to \$5,500,000 due in part to discovered maintenance such as borer damage and rot.

Funding for these additional costs will come from the Trust Fund Capital. This is allowed by the Church Property Trustees whose Property Handbook states that "Capital Funds may be used for major renovations and alterations (including earthquake strengthening)".

The contractors, LT McGuinness Limited, are currently on time and budget.

c) 2020 Budget

(i) The way ahead will be difficult. The current economic conditions means the real return on savings is about 1%. Very low interest rates are the new normal and there is now a possibility of negative net interest.

The overall budget deficit is \$460,000. This is caused mainly by:

- Decreasing Trust Fund income driven by very low interest rates.
- Use of capital from the Trust Fund to pay for earthquake strengthening which will reduce subsequent income.
- Increasing expenses including property costs, insurance, professional costs, staff and youth activities, over which we have only limited control.

(ii) Budget actions to address this position include:

- Increase yield from the Trust Fund by:
 - investing in Church Property Trustee new long term fund, which will be a more diversified fund, with better return but also some increased risks and volatility.
 - review all possible wider investment options.
- (2) Continue fundraising for earthquake strengthening and this will reduce impact on Trust Fund and subsequent income.
- (3) Establishment by Session of a Review Group with wide ranging Terms of Reference. The overall aim is to:
 - reduce the budget deficit by \$150,000 in the 2019/20 financial year
 - bring St John's to a long term sustainable financial position by June 2021.

It was moved that the 2019/2020 Budget be approved.

R Chesney/I Garrett

CARRIED

Thanks were extended to Ross Chesney for all his hard work and clarity in his presentation of the Financial Statements and budget.

8 Confirmation of Council Chairperson and Committee Convenors

It was moved that:

- Ashley Milkop, Council Chair
 - Rob Anderson (Acting until end of 2019), Christian Education
 - Elizabeth Gibbs, Communications
 - Ross Chesney, Finance
 - David Galt, Staffing
 - David Wood, Property
 - David Ensor, Social
 - Mary Gibbs, St John's Fellowship Group
- be confirmed in their roles.*

R Read/L Shaw

AGREED

9 Election of Outreach Committee

It was moved that Rebecca Dudley, Convenor, Philip Garrity, Enrino Pasullean, Brett Reid, Brigitte Hicks-Willer and Judi Ferguson be re-elected and that Bhand Pardhu be elected as Committee members. The Ministers Rev Allister Lane, Rev Stuart Simpson, Mary Gibbs, Session Clerk and Ross Chesney, Treasurer be our ex-officio members.

*R Dudley/A Crombie
AGREED*

10 Election of Investment Advisory Committee

It was moved that Andy Marshall (Chairperson), Ross Chesney, Margaret Galt, Roger Gyles, and Ian Russon be re-elected to the Investment Advisory Committee.

*R Read/E Pearce
AGREED*

11 Appointment of Treasurer

It was moved that Ross Chesney be appointed Treasurer.

*R Read/I Garrett
AGREED*

The AGM acknowledged the heavy workload that the Treasurer role carried. Although Ross was very capable and competent, there needed to be a balance and more people need to become involved and trained so the workload is shared more evenly.

12 Appointment of Auditor

It was moved that Moore Markhams be re-appointed as Auditor.

*R Read/Roger Gyles
AGREED*

13 General Business

i) Rev Allister Lane noted that Richard Read, Session Clerk, had resigned after 3 ½ years in this role. He was thanked for his work and presented with a small gift.

Also announced was Mary Gibbs had agreed to take on this role for two years.

Thanks were extended to both Richard and Mary.

ii) The Music Report was omitted from the Annual printed report due to technical problems. The report will be put onto the website.

Eleanor Carter (Music Director/Organist), Eric Sidoti (Choir Conductor), and Dayle Anderson (Music Group) were all thanked for their contributions.

14 Greetings to be sent

Letter of Greeting to be sent to:

- Rev Mr & Mrs M Brown
- Rev B Johnstone & Ms B Robinson
- Very Rev Dr Graham and Mrs J Redding
- Rev Neil & Mrs B Johnston
- Rev Tom Cuthell
- Rev Helen Martin

- Rev Dr Jim & Mrs Jan Veitch
- Rev Dr John and Mrs Joan Roxborough
- Rev Tara and Mr Derek Woodard-Lehman noting that Rev Tara Woodard-Lehman was being inducted this day (in the United States) as an Associate Pastor for Christian Nurture of Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church.

There was a short video of the Earthquake Strengthening progress.

The meeting closed at 1:00pm with the saying of the Grace together.